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BULLETIN OF THE HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING OF THE A.A.H.D.

The annual meeting of the A.A.H.D., announced for September 11, has now been set for Thursday, September 10, at the Lexington Hotel, New York City. The A.A.H.D. will meet with the Subcommittee on the History of Dentistry of the F.D.I., and this joint meeting will appear on the official program of the Centennial Celebration as International Conference on the History of Dentistry.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF DENTISTRY IN ITALY UNDER THE PAPACY

A scholarly and well-documented study of the professional development of dentistry in Italy as reflected in papal bulls, is presented in Rassegna Trimestrale di Odontoiatria 39:661-682, Oct.-Dec. 1958, by Curzio Hruska, dentist to Pius XII. The author has traced the pronouncements of various popes from the 22nd of January, 1598, through some 50 bulls to 1671, during a period in which "empirics, barbers, bathers, and all those who shed blood, dentists, and perform other manual operations on the human body" must be licensed by the papacy. Not until the pronouncement of 1672, are operators forbidden to practice without school training.

Hruska points out that it is not the bull issued in 1824, usually assumed to apply to the dentist, but that of 1826, which made Leo XII the founder of Italian dentistry as a learned health profession.

The work of Pius XII is represented as reflecting the encouragement of a learned man whose interest in health has led him to speak favorably of dentistry on many occasions.

BUDDHA'S TOOTH

Under the title Holy Tooth, Edward Samson, who until recently conducted a column, "All Things Considered," in the British Dental Journal, has written a most sympathetic account, or interpretation, of the Buddha's tooth at Kandy, Ceylon. In this volume of 125 pages (Bristol: John Wright and Sons, Ltd., 1958), the author employs the sacred tooth as a peg on which to hang much interesting philosophizing.

It is coincidental that at the same time this book came into the editor's hands, he received a note from Gardner P. Foley (of Baltimore College of Dental Surgery) enclosing an extract from Lord Frederic Hamilton's Here, There and Everywhere (1921) with an account of a visit to the Temple of the Tooth, where the Buddha's tooth is enshrined.

INFORMATION WANTED

Leonard Elkins (Corners Community Center, Ithaca, New York) is gathering information on Solyman Brown (1790-1876) for a biography. Dr. Elkins will welcome any loans of material or references to sources.

A GROUP OF BIOGRAPHIES

E/ A. Porter S. Sweet, Editor of Dental Radiography and Photography, has collected the biographies of dentists which have appeared on the inside front cover of his journal and has published them in a brochure of 33 pages (Pittsford, New York, the Naportan Company, 1959), entitled "Dental Biographical Sketches." Although these sketches contain no new information with regard to their subjects, the booklet is a convenient reference pamphlet.

TEACHING OF DENTAL HISTORY

E/ The March, 1959 number of the Journal of Dental Education (23:27-46) publishes five reports presented at a conference session of the American Association of Dental Schools on the teaching of the history of dentistry. The reports are as follows: J. Ben Robinson; "Report of Courses Taught in the History of Dentistry"; Neal A. Harper, "The Objectives of a Course in Dental History"; Herschel H. Reynolds, "Qualifications and Preparation for the Teacher of History of Dentistry"; Laszlo L. Schwartz, "The Position Dental History Should Occupy in the Curriculum and the Amount of Time That Should Be Allowed to It"; Gardner P. H. Foley, "The Use of Library Resources in the Administration of the Course in the History of Dentistry."

IVORY

E/ As the subject of the president's inaugural address at the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (Atlantic City, March 22, 1957), Reidar F. Sognnaes chose "A Precious Heritage: Footnotes on Ivory Art and Dental Science." This interesting historical study of ivory and its uses was published in Harvard Alumni Bulletin 18:109-115, Oct. 1958.

EUROPEAN DENTAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

E/ F. E. R. De Maar presented a brief survey of some of the principal European museums of dental history at the first meeting of the Subcommittee on the History of Dentistry of the F.D.I. in Brussels, 1958. The museums which he describes are those of the British Dental Association in London, the collection of Dr. Menzies Campbell in Glasgow, the museum of the Bundesverband der Deutschen Zahnärzte at Cologne, and the museum at Utrecht University. Dr. De Maar's paper has been circulated to members of the Subcommittee in memeographed form.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF GERMAN DENTISTRY

E/ Deutscher Zahnärztekalender 1959 (The German Dentists' Calendar for 1959) contains an historical introduction and chronological table of important events in the history of German dentistry, prepared by Dr. F. H. Witt. Dr. Witt is the chairman of the Subcommittee on History of Dentistry of the F.D.I.

*** The January Northwestern Dentistry has an editorial on the value of history, which commends the efforts of the A.A.H.D.

*** This number was issued in March, 1959.